Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 through 36 were previously cancelled.

Claim 37 (currently amended):   A system for determining and signaling content quality of preexisting digital data, between digital devices including a digital source and to a digital receiver, the preexisting digital data having a plurality of data records, at least one record, the at least one record each of the plurality of data records having at least one a plurality of data field, fields, the system comprising:

assessment means for assessing the quality of the content of the preexisting digital data using one or more predefined sets of criteria;

assignment means for assigning a grade indicative of the quality of the content of the preexisting digital data for at least one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria; and,

means for marking the preexisting digital data with the assigned grade without changing and without accessing the content of the preexisting digital data;

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wherein the digital receiver dynamically accesses the marked grade of the preexisting digital data to determine suitability for subsequent use of the preexisting digital data without ~~having to access~~ accessing the preexisting digital data;

whereby the digital receiver can independently determine suitability from the marked grade for another use of the preexisting digital data without accessing the preexisting digital data.

Claim 38 (currently amended): The system as recited in claim 37 further comprising means for associating a portion of a filename corresponding to the grade.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The system as recited in claim 38 wherein the filename corresponds to a file containing the preexisting data.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The system as recited in claim 37 further comprising means for associating a grade file with the grade.

Claim 41 (currently amended): The system as recited in claim 37 wherein the quality of the content corresponds to a particular data field of the ~~at least one~~ plurality of data ~~field~~ fields.

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Claim 42 (currently amended):   The system as recited in claim 37 wherein the

quality of the content corresponds to a particular record of the <u>plurality of data records</u> ~~at~~

~~least one record~~.

Claim 43 (currently amended):   The system as recited in claim 42 wherein a

particular quality of the content corresponds to a particular record of the <u>plurality of data</u>

<u>records</u> ~~at least one record~~.

Claim 44 (currently amended):   The system as recited in claim 42 wherein a

particular quality of the content corresponds to a particular field of the ~~at least one~~

<u>plurality of</u> data ~~field~~ <u>fields</u>.

Claim 45 (previously presented):   The system as recited in claim 37 wherein at least

one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria for determining the quality of the

content is a predefined function.

Claim 46 (previously presented):   The system as recited in claim 37 wherein at least

one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria for determining the quality of the

content accesses a database.

Claim 47 (previously presented)   The system as recited in claim 37 wherein at least one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria for determining the quality of the content is an externally defined function.

Claim 48 (previously presented):   The system as recited in claim 37 wherein at least one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria for determining the quality of the content uses access to an independent database.

Claim 49 (previously presented):   The system as recited in claim 37 wherein the grade is a numeric value, a color, or a Boolean.

Claim 50 (previously presented):   The system as recited in claim 37 further comprising means for associating the grade to a data set.

Claim 51 (currently amended):   The system as recited in claim 37 wherein at least one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria for determining the quality is selected by the digital receiver.

Claim 52 (previously presented):   The system as recited in claim 37 further comprising means for assigning a rating as a function of the grade.

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Claim 53 (currently amended):   The system as recited in claim 37 wherein a

different one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria for determining the quality

provides a different grade for the preexisting <u>digital</u> data.

Claim 54 (currently amended):   A method for determining and signaling content

quality of preexisting <u>digital</u> data, <u>between digital devices including a digital source and</u>

~~to~~ a digital receiver, the preexisting <u>digital</u> data having <u>a plurality of data records,</u> ~~at least~~

~~one record, the at least one record~~ <u>each of the plurality of data records</u> having ~~at least one~~

<u>a plurality of</u> data ~~field,~~ <u>fields,</u> the method comprising the following steps:

assessing the quality of the content of the preexisting <u>digital</u> data using one or

more predefined sets of criteria;

assigning a grade indicative of the quality of the content of the preexisting <u>digital</u>

data for at least one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria; and,

marking the preexisting <u>digital</u> data with the assigned grade without changing <u>and</u>

<u>without accessing</u> the content of the preexisting <u>digital</u> data;

wherein the digital receiver dynamically accesses the marked grade of the

<u>preexisting digital</u> data to determine suitability for subsequent use of the preexisting

<u>digital</u> data without ~~having to access~~ <u>accessing</u> the preexisting <u>digital</u> data<u>;</u>

<u>whereby the digital receiver independently determines suitability from the marked</u>

<u>grade for another use of the preexisting digital data without accessing the preexisting</u>

<u>digital data.</u>

Claim 55 (previously presented):   The method as recited in claim 54 further comprising the step of associating a portion of a filename to the grade.

Claim 56 (previously presented):   The system as recited in claim 55 wherein the filename corresponds to a file containing the preexisting data.

Claim 57 (currently amended):   The method as recited in claim 54 further comprising the step of associating a grade file ~~with~~ corresponding to the grade.

Claim 58 (currently amended):   The method as recited in claim 54 wherein the quality of the content corresponds to a particular data field of the ~~at least one~~ plurality of data ~~field~~ fields.

Claim 59 (currently amended):   The method as recited in claim 54 wherein the quality of the content corresponds to a particular record of the plurality of data records ~~at least one record~~.

Claim 60 (currently amended):   The system as recited in claim 59 wherein a particular quality of the content corresponds to a particular record of the plurality of data records ~~at least one record~~.

Claim 61 (currently amended):   The system as recited in claim 59 wherein a particular quality of the content corresponds to a particular field of the <u>plurality of data fields</u> ~~at least one particular field~~.

Claim 62 (previously presented):   The method as recited in claim 54 wherein at least one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria for determining the quality of the content is a predefined function.

Claim 63 (previously presented):   The method as recited in claim 54 wherein at least one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria for determining the quality of the content accesses a database.

Claim 64 (previously presented):   The method as recited in claim 54 wherein at least one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria for determining the quality of the content is an externally defined function.

Claim 65 (previously presented):   The method as recited in claim 54 wherein at least one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria for determining the quality of the content uses access to an independent database.

Claim 66 (previously presented):   The method as recited in claim 54 wherein the grade is a numeric value, a color, or a Boolean.

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Claim 67 (previously presented):   The method as recited in claim 54 further comprising the step of associating the grade to a data set.

Claim 68 (currently amended)   The method as recited in claim 54 wherein at least one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria for determining the quality is selected by the <u>digital</u> receiver.

Claim 69 (previously presented):   The method as recited in claim 54 further comprising the step of assigning a rating as a function of the grade.

Claim 70 (currently amended):   The method as recited in claim 54 wherein a different one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria for determining the quality provides a different grade for the preexisting <u>digital</u> data.